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Congressional Progressive Caucus

<http://cpc.grijalva.house.gov>

82 Strong and Growing: Open to New and Different Ideas

July 22, 2009

The Honorable Barack Obama
President of the United States of America
1600 Pennsylvania Ave NW
Washington, D.C.

Dear President Barack Obama,

On behalf of the Congressional Progressive Caucus, we write to you regarding healthcare reform.

Thank you for your leadership on this issue and for prioritizing the working poor in accessing guaranteed, affordable and quality healthcare.

We have been watching and engaging in the healthcare debate over the past five months and we were particularly encouraged by your commitment to the public option.

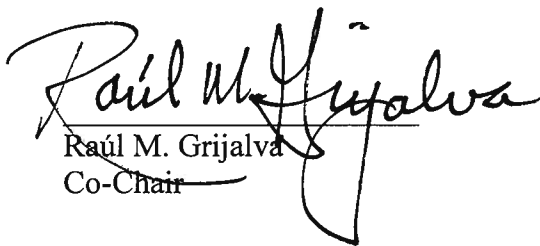
As the healthcare proposal continues to move forward in the House and Senate, we ask that you continue your commitment to the inclusion of a strong public option and do not weaken the language that has already passed through two committees.

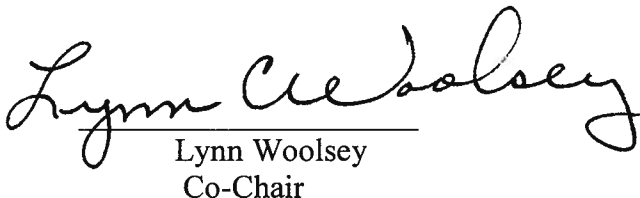
Let us be clear: a strong public option is already a compromise for the CPC. Many of us strongly supported a single-payer approach. We will not support a weakened public option. The Congressional Progressive Caucus stands united to provide high quality, affordability and accessibility in healthcare choices for all Americans.

The Congressional Progressive Caucus believes the public plan should provide a guarantee of coverage, affordable, high-quality and accessible healthcare, and lower costs – regardless of income, health status, race, employment or gender. We strongly oppose any conditions or triggers undermining and limiting the availability of the public option.

We look forward to our continued involvement in the process.

Sincerely,


Raúl M. Grijalva
Co-Chair


Lynn Woolsey
Co-Chair